

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /011 W

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P 261509Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7664

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4858

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YU

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EXHIBIT

1. PAO CALLED TO SECINFO THIS MORNING FOR MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CUDINA, WHO BEGAN SESSION BY NOTING LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED REQUESTING APPROVAL EDTECH EXHIBIT IN BELGRADE, SARAJEVO AND LJUBLJANA. SAID SHOWING HAD BEEN APPROVED FOR BELGRADE AND ASSUMPTION WAS WOULD ALSO BE APPROVED FOR OTHER CITIES.

2. THEN REFERRED TO LETTER REQUESTING CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR IMPORTATION GUIDE UNIFORMS AND SOUVENIR BUTTONS. SAID SECINFO WAS GRANTING TEMPORARY CLEARANCE FOR IMPORTATION UNIFORMS, BUT FINAL CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR DISPOSAL HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM SECRETARIAT FOREIGN AFFIARS. RE BUTTONS, SAID SECINFO WAS "NOT IN POSITION TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR DISTRIBUTION, SINCE IT WAS NOT IN INTEREST OF PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US AND YUGOSLAVIA AT THIS TIME." WHEN PRESSED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION, CUDINA ADDED THAT SECINFO "COULD NOT ANTICIPATE REACTION OF YUGOSLAV PRESS TO SUCH MASS DISTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME." COMMENT: PERMISSION FOR DISTRIBUTION SOUVENIR BUTTONS FOR EXHIBITS HAS NEVER BEEN REQUESTED IN PAST NOR REQUIRED.

3. PAO THEN INQUIRED RE CLEARANCE FOR EDTECH PAMPHLET, WHICH NOT YET RECEIVED. CUDINA REPLIED CLEARANCE STILL IN PROCESS WITH PERMISSION NOT YET RECEIVED FROM SECRETARIAT INTERIOR.

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WHILE HE BELIEVED CLEARANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, ELAPSED TIME

HAD BEEN TOO SHORT FOR COMPLETING PROCEDURE. SAID WOULD INFORM EMBASSY AS SOON AS CLEARANCE RECEIVED. MEANTIME, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM FAIR DIRECTORS EXPRESSING HOPE THAT WE "WOULD COMPLETE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR DISTRIBUTION PRINTED MATERIALS BEFORE EXHIBIT OPENED, OCTOBER 29." COMMENT: EMBASSY REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION BROCHURE AUGUST 8 FROM FAIR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE AS IN PAST. SOME WEEKS LATER, REPLY RECEIVED STATING DISTRIBUTION MUST BE CLEARED THROUGH SECINFO. THUS SEVERAL WEEKS LOST AND REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE NOT RE SUBMITTED NEW CHANNEL UNTIL OCTOBER 10.

4. CUDINA CONCLUDED SESSION BY REPEATING THAT DENIAL PERMISSION TO DISTRIBUTE BUTTON BASED ON "DESIRE TO PRESERVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS." MOREOVER, HE OBSERVED THAT "BADGE HAS NO DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO EXHIBIT." PAO REPLIED BY EXPLAINING TRADITION OF SOUVENIR BUTTON BEARING EXHIBIT LOGO. COMMENT: EMBASSY EXHIBIT LOCALS WORKING AT EDTECH EXHIBIT EARLIER TODAY PICED UP RUMOR DISTRIBUTION OF "AMERICAN FLAG" WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED "DUE TO MIDEAST SITUATION."

5. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO PRESS FOR DISTRIBUTION SOUVENIR BUTTON, BUT WILL CONTINUE REQUEST REPID CLEARANCE FOR EXHIBIT BROCHURE. SOUVENIR BUTTON CARRIES RED, WHITE AND BLUE EXHIBIT LOGO WITH USA IN CENTER. BELIEVE IT PROBABLE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES DO NOT DESIRE DISPLAY THIS BUTTON ON CITIZENS' LAPESL IN CURRENT SITUATION.

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